

Applicant : Richard L. Owens
For : DISPENSER/SPREADER ARTICLE FOR SPACKLING AND PASTE
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In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application claims benefit under 35 USC §§ 371 and 119 of PCT application serial no. PCT/US2004/011769, filed April 16, 2004, entitled DISPENSER/SPREADER ARTICLE FOR SPACKLING AND PASTE, which is a continuation-in-part of application serial no. 10/421,453, filed April 22, 2003 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,767,151), entitled DISPENSER/SPREADER ARTICLE FOR SPACKLING AND PASTE, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 7, after line 9:

In another aspect of the present invention, an article includes a spreader including a preformed resilient sheet component and a preformed deformable sheet component bonded together and shaped to form a blister-shaped sealed container with a cavity therebetween. The sealed container is airtight and water-tight and adapted to contain spackling material. The resilient sheet component forms a blade at one end suitable for spreading the spackling material and forms an opening at the one end for dispensing the spackling material onto the blade. The resilient sheet includes at least two parallel ribs that extend toward the blade for stiffening the blade and a removable moisture-resistant adhesive seal sealingly covering the opening.

In another aspect of the present invention, an article includes a resilient sheet component and a deformable sheet component bonded together to form a blister-shaped container. The resilient sheet has an enlarged blade formed at a blade end and a dispenser hole also formed at the blade end for dispensing material from the container onto the blade and further has an air bleed hole remote from the dispenser hole for facilitating filling of the container. At least one removable sealing member sealingly covers the dispenser hole and at least one second sealing member sealingly covers the air bleed hole to maintain an airtight

moisture-resistant seal of the container.

In still another aspect of the present invention, an article includes a resilient sheet component and a deformable sheet component bonded together to form a blister-shaped container. The resilient sheet has an enlarged blade formed at a blade end and a dispenser hole also formed at the blade end for dispensing material from the container onto the blade and further has an air bleed hole remote from the dispenser hole for facilitating filling of the container. At least one removable sealing member sealingly covers the dispenser hole and at least one second sealing member sealingly covers the air bleed hole to maintain an airtight moisture-resistant seal of the container.

In another aspect of the present invention, an article includes a first preformed component made from a resilient sheet of resilient material having a constant wall thickness and a second preformed component made from a deformable sheet of flexible material bonded together along a continuous bond line and shaped to form an airtight blister-shaped sealed container therebetween. The second preformed component has a perimeter flange bonded to the first preformed component and the first preformed component includes first ribs extending along a portion of the perimeter flange to assist in locating the resilient and deformable sheets together during a bonding process. The first preformed component includes an enlarged end forming a blade and further includes second ribs extending onto the enlarged end to stiffen the blade for improved control when using the blade and to permit a thinner material to be used for the resilient sheet, and paste material sensitive to drying from exposure to atmosphere filling the container.

In another aspect of the present invention, an article includes a preformed first component made from a flexible thermoplastic polymer and having a continuous perimeter flange. A preformed second component is made from a rigid thermoplastic polymer with a blade edge and a dispensing hole formed on one end and an air bleed hole. The perimeter flange is bonded to the second component to define a cavity and has a portion of the perimeter flange extending between the blade edge and the dispensing hole. A paste material filling the cavity, the paste material being sensitive to drying out and clumping; and a seal covering at least the air bleed hole.

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In another aspect of the present invention, a method includes steps of forming a first sheet section of flexible material, including a perimeter flange. Another step includes forming a second sheet section of material, one of the first and second sheet sections having a dispenser opening and an air bleed hole spaced from the dispenser opening; and bonding the perimeter flange of the flexible material to the resilient material with a continuous bond to form a blister package with a cavity. Another step includes filling the cavity with a paste through the dispenser opening while bleeding air through the air bleed hole, and sealing the dispenser opening and the air bleed hole to prevent the paste from drying.